



March 24, 2022

Stacey Hillock, Esq., Executive Director  
Office of Health Planning  
Georgia Department of Community Health  
2 Peachtree St. NW - 5th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Ms. Hillock,

As the duly elected representatives of Walker County, we have come together to ask that you approve the request by our hospital - CHI Memorial Hospital Georgia to relocate and build a new facility on Battlefield Parkway. Our 69,000 constituents have waited a long time for the kind of hospital they need and deserve.


Hutcheson Medical Center served the needs of the region for over 60 years. We were proud of our hospital and appreciated what the administrators, medical staff and employees did to care for all of us when we needed medical care. When our hospital began to struggle and experience significant hardship, we found ourselves in an unfortunate position and relied on others to step in and try to prevent its closing. They were not successful and our county was suddenly responsible for enormous operating losses. That debt became the burden of Walker County taxpayers who saw property taxes escalate to cover this obligation.


Today we are free of that debt and thankful that CHI Memorial stepped in and acquired the license to ensure we would have a hospital to serve northwest Georgia. When they acquired the hospital in 2017, CHI Memorial committed to building a new facility better suited to meet the healthcare needs of the region. Now they seek to honor that commitment and provide us with a modern hospital facility that will save lives and contribute to the overall health and well-being of our county.

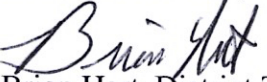
Our people deserve a new hospital and our partner is ready to move forward with this project. We ask again that you support CHI Memorial and approve the relocation of our hospital.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Walker County Board of Commissioners

  
Shannon Whitfield, Chairman

  
Robert Blakemore, District One

  
Brian Hart, District Three

  
Mark Askew, District Two

  
Robert Stultz, District Four